Canadian Red Cross Society Oct. 1919 - May 1920 (071)

THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

77 King Street East, Toronto

March 15th 1920.

Sir Robert A. Falconer, K.C.M.G., M.A.
President, University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

The recurrence of the influenza epidemic has once more demonstrated the urgent need for nurses with Public Health training in this province. The Provincial Red Cross has already received many calls for this type of nurse which cannot be met, and at present there is no provision in Canada for such training as we propose, with the result that Canadian graduate nurses can get this training only in the United States, and frequently remain there in permanent posts.

The desire of the Red Cross is not to prevent nor forestall the extension of Public Health work under Provincial and Municipal authorities, nor in any way to interfere with the proper duties of the Provincial University as the teaching body of the province. For this reason the offer made is definitely only for a limited period and not as a permanency, as we do not think it expedient that any voluntary body should permanently finance a department of University work, and if the number of students applying for the course at the end of three years does not justify its continuance as a Department of the University, the experiment

can be dropped by the withdrawal of the Red Cross grant.

We only desire to demonstrate for a time the need and demand for increased Public Health instruction in the hope that we may stimulate public opinion to such an extent that it may be easier for the Provincial authorities to carry on and extend their work as a consequence of our action.

The same principle is guiding our policy with regard to placing Public Health nurses in rural communities. The idea of the Red Cross is to make it possible for a community to experience the value of a Public Health nurse for a time, believing that the demonstration of the nurse's value will result in the establishment of a permanent nursing service under municipal, township or provincial authorities.

You will remember that in October last you received a communication from the Head Office of the Canadian Red Cross Society asking you to be so kind as to call the attention of your Board of Governors to the need for a Public Health course for graduate nurses in the University, and you replied that you would bring this matter to the attention of the Governors. The Head Office requested that any further correspondence with regard to this matter should be taken up between the Provincial Branch of the Red Cross and your University.

In accordance with this decision the Ontario Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society has appointed a committee to discuss with you the possibility of organizing such a course in the University of Toronto, and we now desire to lay before you some

definite suggestions for your consideration.

1. That the University should undertake to provide a course in Public Health Nursing;

2. The the Director of this course should be a graduate nurse with University Public Health training, capable of mapping out the lectures and also of supervising the field work of the students;

3. That the field work of the students should be arranged with the Public Health Department of the city, which is ready to co-operate, and also with other existing social and public health agencies, both official and voluntary;

4. That the expenses entailed by engaging this Director and establishing the course should be borne by the Provincial Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society for three years as a demonstration and experiment, and that at the end of two years the advisability of revising this arrangement should be discussed between the Branch and the University. For this purpose the Provincial Branch is prepared to grant the sum of $ to the University to cover the salary of the Director and the entire lecture expenses;

5. (a) That this course should be open only to graduate nurses eligible for membership in the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses;

(b) That the Ontario Red Cross Society, in order to ensure a class for this course, will offer ten scholarships in the first two years, value $350. each; the number of scholarships to be given after two years (if any) shall be discussed between the Red Cross

5 (b) cont'd.

and the University at the end of the two years.

(c) That one half of these scholarships should be granted to Canadian nurses who have served overseas, provided that there is a sufficient number of satisfactory applicants from this group;

(d) That the rules and examinations for these scholarships should be under the direction of a joint committee of the University and the Red Cross.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Geo. G. Nasmith

Chairman - Committee

AEM

P.S. The suggested curriculum is attached to this letter to serve as a basis for discussion.

Board

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FOUNDED 1896 — INCORPORATED 1909

HEAD OFFICE FOR CANADA
123 Bay St. 77 King St. East
Toronto

The Canadian Red Cross Society

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October 2nd, 1919.

Sir Robert A. Falconer, K.C.M.G.,M.A.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir -

The Central Council of the Canadian Red Cross Society at its recent meeting held in Winnipeg under the Presidency of Her Excellency the Duchess of Devonshire, His Excellency the Governor General also being present, together with representatives of eight Provincial Branches of the Dominion, passed the following Resolution:

> "THAT the Central Council of the Canadian Red Cross Society should approach the Universities with a view to the establishment of Nursing Departments, and that this action should be followed up by the Provincial Branches."

The Council had received an important memorandum from the Canadian Association of Trained Nurses in which it was requested that the Council should assist the nurses in their efforts to prepare themselves for the posts which they are called to fill by enlisting the sympathies of the Universities of the country on behalf of the further education of nurses. It was pointed out by the Association to the Council that at the present time many of the best Canadian graduate nurses go to the United States for Training courses, and on completion of their courses receive very strong inducements to remain in the United States rather than return and take up work in Canada.

By the provision of post graduate courses in connection with Canadian Universities it is hoped both to complete the Canadian system of training its nursing service and also prevent some of the best Canadian nurses being drawn away from their own country.

We are informed that the University of British Columbia has already taken a step in the direction indicated

Sir Robert A. Falconer,

by the establishment of a Chair of Nursing and the appointment of a trained nurse as its Dean, and that courses for trained nurses have also been arranged recently by the University of Toronto.

The Council of the Canadian Red Cross Society therefore feel assured that in suggesting further action along the lines indicated they are supporting a policy which has already been adopted in principle in more than one of our Provincial Universities.

The CanadianRed Cross Society is taking up this matter beacuse the Council believe that a well equipped and well staffed nursing service is an important factor in the health and happiness of the Dominion, and that in supporting this request the Society is in line with the world-wide Red Cross movement for promoting health and preventing disease.

The Council does not venture to suggest what precise action, if any, your University should take. This must be left to the authorities of each Provincial University, and if it is desired to take it up further with the Canadian Red Cross Society we would suggest that consultation or correspondence should be with the representatives of the Provincial Branch of the Red Cross in Ontario. The address of the Ontario Provincial Branch is 123 Bay Street, and I am acting as Secretary temporarily.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Yours very truly,

AEM. Honorary Secretary.

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TORONTO

May 27th 1920.

M.A.Mackenzie Esq.M.A.,
1 Bellwoods Park,
TORONTO.

My dear Mr.Mackenzie:-

Following our conversation with reference to the Canadian Red Cross Society and Dr.Abbott I enclose you memorandum as suggested which sets out the whole situation.

If there is any further information which I can give you I shall be very happy to do so.

Sincerely yours,

A Sommerville
Howard Sheilin

Encl

MEMORANDUM for Mr. M. A. Mackenzie re the Canadian Red Cross Society and Dr. A. H. Abbott.

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The Covenant of the League of Nations contains a provision pledging the covenanting Nations to the continuance and the extension of the work of the Red Cross Society in each Nation in peace time, so as to provide "for the prevention of disease and amelioration of suffering."

The League of Red Cross Societies acting upon this Covenant has planned a great educational campaign in the interest of public health. Canada as a member of the League of Nations, and the Canadian Red Cross Society as a member of the League of Red Cross Societies, are both under obligation to carry out the covenant given and the plans made in the interest of public health.

Pursuant to this plan the Canadian Red Cross Society has become the great body for co-ordinating all the activities of the many voluntary organizations that contribute to the prevention of disease, and it has become a great auxiliary to the Governmental agencies in the maintenance of public health. Indeed to fully maintain its peace-time programme the Society must become the greatest auxialiary to the Departments of Health, both in the Federal and Provincial spheres of operation, and it is planning accordingly.

To develop and maintain this position will make two great demands upon the Society, viz:-

1. The providing of a constant and progressive programme of education for the people:

2. The providing for the education and equipment of persons able to carry out, through nursing agen-

cies and health organizations, the details of the Society's programme.

The second demand is being met by arrangements (already completed with the University of Toronto), for the providing of instruction in the subjects necessary to this enlarged work of the Red Cross Society. Such courses undoubtedly will be provided in every Province in the Dominion of Canada and possibly in every University in Canada.

The first demand requires the personal supervision of one who has the training, skill and experience necessary to carry on this great public propaganda and education.

The Canadian Red Cross Society has looked over the whole field for a suitable man to undertake the above-mentioned work and they have reached the conclusion that the Society should have the services of Dr. Albert H. Abbott of the University of Toronto. In addition to the supervision of the work as Secretary-General, he will be required to organize and develop the work, as well as to deliver lectures in the training courses set up in the various Universities.

When approaching Dr. Abbott the Society learned that he had for some twenty-five years been a Professor and Instructor in the University of Toronto and had therefore a very substantial interest in the benefits to be derived from the Carnegie Corporation Fund for Professors.

To ask Dr. Abbott to undertake the work and make the sacrifice of this substantial interest would be such an injustice to him, that it is the desire of the Canadian Red Cross Society to appeal to the Directors of the Carnegie Corporation for such consideration as will enable them to avail themselves of the services of Dr. Abbott

without requiring him to sacrifice all the advantages of the Carnegie Fund, which he has acquired through his years of University service.

The Canadian Red Cross Society therefore request the Carnegie Corporation to permit Dr. Abbott to become Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross Society and in that capacity to consider him as still engaged in and carrying on higher educational work in the Dominion of Canada without being particularly attached to the Staff of any one University.

The remarkable experience of Dr. Abbott during the five years of the war in the handling of Red Cross and Patriotic work and in the various campaigns for production and recruiting, is so unique that the Canadian Red Cross Society would regard it as a direct waste of effort if the experience and knowledge gained during such service by Dr. Abbott, should be lost in not being used for the benefit of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

In support of this application the Canadian Red Cross Society would point out that the work in which Dr. Abbott will be actively engaged will be :-

1. The organization and development of great campaigns for the education of the public in all matters that tend to the prevention of disease.

2. The organization and supervision of courses of study in the Universities of Canada to provide the personnel necessary to carry out the enlarged programme of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

The close similarity of this work to the ordinary educational programme and the close association with the Universities of Canada in the completion of the programme will make his position so unique and will so supplement the educational system of this country, that it is the hope of the Canadian Red Cross Society that the Directors of the

Carnegie Corporation will grant the request of the Society to consider Dr. Abbott as still engaged in higher educational work for the purposes of the Corporation, under such conditions and upon such terms as the Corporation may deem equitable and advisable.

SIGNED on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Norman Somerville

Honorary Solicitor.